DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 170 672 CG 013 499

AUTHOR Atkinson, Maxine; Gecas, Viktor
TITLE What's Been Published in Family Sociology in the Past Ten Years?
PUB DATE [78]
NOTE 24p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 19-22, 1978)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Child Rearing; *Family (Sociological Unit); *Family Role; *Marriage; Parent Child Relationship; Periodicals; *Personal Adjustment; *Sex Role; *Sociocultural Patterns

ABSTRACT

A content analysis of articles published from 1968 to 1977 in the "Journal of Marriage and the Family," and of family-related articles published in the "American Journal of Sociology" and the "American Sociological Review," was undertaken in order to determine how frequently various topics in family sociology have appeared in these journals; to assess which topics are increasing or decreasing in frequency of appearance; and to compare topics across the three journals. Findings suggest that: (1) the area of sex roles is the most popular topic in the family literature; (2) child socialization is decreasing in emphasis; and (3) marital satisfaction and adjustment are the most frequent concerns of marital interaction research. The general conclusion is that the family field is becoming increasingly "adult-oriented," reflecting a more general social trend which increasingly views the family as a context for self-expression rather than as a context for child-rearing. (Author)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED170672

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Maxine Atkinson

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

WHAT'S BEEN PUBLISHED IN FAMILY SOCIOLOGY IN THE PAST TEN YEARS?*

MAXINE ATKINSON

and

VIKTOR GECAS

Washington State University

*Paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations meetings, Philadelphia, 1978.

CG013499

WHAT'S BEEN PUBLISHED IN FAMILY SOCIOLOGY IN THE PAST TEN YEARS?

The family field of study has been undergoing a tremendous revitalization over the past decade or so, due in part to various social movements (such as the women's movement with its reexamination of sex roles; experimentation with "alternate life styles" and its critique of nuclear family structure; "no-fault divorce" legislation and its effect on family stability, represent some of the more conspicuous social developments affecting family life). In these historical circumstances of increasing attention to family phenomena by various academic and non-academic groups, it is important to take stock of what family sociologists are publishing about the family, in order to determine where we are in our concern for family matters, and perhaps to assess where we are going.

Several systematic reviews of the professional journals dealing with family matters have appeared in the past few years (Hodgson and Lewis, 1977; Kleinn, et al., 1969; Ruano, et al., 1969). But the focus of these reviews has been on theoretical and methodological developments, particularly on the use of conceptual frameworks in family research and theory. Our concern in this analysis is primarily substantive, that is, we are interested in determining what topics or subjects family sociologists are studying. Accordingly, we have undertaken a content analysis of articles published in the Journal of Marriage and the Family over the past ten years, and family related articles published in the American Sociological Review and the American Journal of Sociology for the same time period. Our analysis considers 1) how frequently various topics in family sociology have appeared in these journals; 2) an

assessment of which topics are increasing and which are decreasing in frequency of appearance; and 3) a comparison of topics across the three journals.

Methods and Procedures

The senior author conducted a content analysis of three major journals issued in 1969 through 1977. Obviously, family researchers publish in more than three journals. However, it was decided that an analysis of Journal of Marriage and the Family, American Journal of Sociology, and American Sociological Review (hence forward referred to as JMF, AJS, and ASR) would provide not only an adequate view of the prevailing trend of interests but also a point of comparison between a journal publishing only family research and journals with a broader scope. Every article appearing in JMF and every family related article appearing in ASR and AJS was coded for this time period.

Constructing an adequate and usable list of family topics was a formidable task, because of the diversity of family research interests. The list of topics was selected on the basis of frequency and amount of attention devoted to each in introductory family text books. Each article was coded for major topic of focus, usually reflected by the dependent variable, and was also cross-referenced with other topics on our list. In addition, each research article was also coded for methods of data collection used. In the case of more than one methodology used, cross references were listed. Coding procedures for topics and methods are provided in Appendix A.

The reliability of the coding scheme was assessed by computing inter-coder reliability for approximately 20 journal issues. For substantive topics there was an 81% congruence in codes between the two coders; for the coding of methodologies, the congruence was 94%; and the overall reliability computation was 87%.

During the past decade JMF published 747 articles, ASR published 58 family related articles, and AJS published 74 (Table 4). I should be noted that the difference in the number of articles published by ASR and AJS is due to one publication of AJS (Vol. 78, No. 4, January) which was a special issue on sex roles.

Findings

It is clear from Table 1 that the most frequently appearing topic in the family literature of the late sixties and seventies is sex roles. Fifteen percent of the 879 articles from 1968 - 1977 dealt with sex roles. The topic was prominent throughout the decade, but rose conspicuously in 1971 (30% of the articles during that year) and has remained high since. Concern with family size and family planning was also high (9%), and remained fairly constant throughout the decade. Parent-child interaction accounted for 10% of the articles and, within this category, child socialization or the parents' effect on the child constituted the predominant focus. There is an interesting historical shift here, however. Interest in the effect of the parent on the child decreased during the decade: there were over twice as many articles published on this topic in the first half of the decade as appeared in the second half. On the other hand, the effect of the child's influence on the parent (though still less frequent than the reverse) seems to be increasing in interest: only two articles appeared in these journals in the first half of the decade, compared to seven articles in the second half.

TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

Articles dealing with marital interaction per se constituted only 15% of the total. This is due partly to the fact that marital interaction was frequently coded under more descriptive categories such as sex roles, family process, early marriages, or old marriages. Within this general category, marital satisfaction/adjustment is the most frequent. Interest in it has remained fairly constant over the decade (at around 5%). Conjugal power and marital dissolution each appeared about half as frequently, and also did not change much over the decade.

In general, there was not much change apparent in the frequency of topics across this ten-year period. Along with the ones mentioned above, on parent-child interaction and sex roles, the only other noticeable change is on the topic of illegitimacy over the decade. Perhaps, with the liberation of abortion laws, this is perceived as less of a social problem by sociologists.

When an article dealt with more than one topic, it was first coded on the basis of the main topic, then it was cross referenced with the other topics. Articles coded as "cross-cultural" were most likely to fall in this category. We found that their most frequent cross reference is with family structure. In comparative studies, it seems, the major point of comparison is on family size and composition.

TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE

We were also interested in determining the relative frequency of various methods of data collection used in family research. As indicated in Table 2, survey methods are clearly dominant, accounting for 67% of the research methods used. Within the category of survey methods, questionnaire surveys are the most common (34%). By contrast, experimental studies, observational studies, and content analysis combined account for only 11% of the studies.

These frequencies appear to be relatively constant across the decade. It is clear that most of our knowledge of family phenomena as reported in the major sociological journals is based on self-report techniques, written and verbal. This is quite consistent with the findings of Hodgson and Lewis (1977), who, based on their content analysis, reported 55% of the research in family journals used survey techniques. As a result, the types of biases that are most likely to occur in our knowledge of family matters are those most frequently associated with survey techniques, e.g., social desireability of responses, halo effects, errors in memory and perception, and lying.

TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE

Although most of the research topics in our content analysis were dominated by the use of survey methods, there were some variations. The most frequent use of questionnaires was found in studies dealing with sexual behavior (68%), birth order (71%), child socialization (53%), marital satisfaction/adjustment (54%), and mate selection (46%). Interview survey was the dominant methodology in the study of conjugal power (43%), marital conflict (33%), effect of child on parent (43%), and family structure (42%). The chief competition to survey methods is the use of archival data. Use of various legal and public records is most evident in studies of marital dissolution (61%), family size and planning (27%), illegitimacy (47%), and mixed marriage (83%). The use of other methodologies is much less frequent.

TABLE 4 ABOUT HERE

When we compared journals in the frequency of topics and methods, a few interesting findings emerged. The main difference in the frequency of topics

appearing in Journal of Marriage and the Family compared to the two general sociology journals (the American Sociological Review and the American Journal of Sociology) is with regard to sex roles. The topic of sex roles was three times more frequent in ASR and AJS (35% and 38%) than it was in JMF (11%). This undoubtedly reflects the more general appeal of sex roles than that of other family topics. In fact, much of this literature on sex roles does not deal directly with family matters (for example, job discrimination, the Equal Rights Amendment, etc.), but is of more general sociological concern. In terms of absolute frequencies, of course, JMF had more articles on sex roles than either ASR or AJS because it is a journal specializing in family sociology. Only 16.2% of the articles in ASR and 15.9% of those in AJS dealt with family topics.

TABLE 5 ABOUT HERE

There was also a difference between JMF and ASR/AJS in the frequency of various methods used (Table 5). The most conspicuous difference was in the use of archival data: it was substantially more frequent in ASR (38%) and AJS (42%) than it was in JMF (15%). In fact, for the two general sociology journals, use of archival data was the major methodology. This suggests that publication of family research is more likely to occur in the top two sociology journals when large data sets are used (such as NORC).

Summary and Conclusion

In summary, our findings are not very surprising with regard to topics of publication or methods of data collection represented in the family sociology articles published over the past decade. In fact, they are quite congruent with our informal impressions of the family sociology literature:

1) sex roles is the most popular topic; 2) child socialization is decreasing in emphasis; 3) child's effect on parent is increasing in emphasis; 4) marital satisfaction and adjustment is the most common focus of marital interaction research; and 5) survey methods dominate the procedures of data collection (especially in research on sexual behavior, marital satisfaction, and child socialization--topics which rely primarily on respondents' opinions, attitudes, and reports of behavior).

It is clear that some of the social developments affecting family life are reflected in the family literature of the past decade. The most apparent in our analysis is the interest in sex roles, which has the broadest appeal of any of the family topics within sociology in general (judging by the frequency of its appearance in ASR and AJS). Reflections of other social developments in family publications of the decade are much less conspicuous. For example, the proportion of articles dealing with alternate life styles and legal changes affecting the family was very small.

Our overall impression of the family field, based on this content analysis of its publications for the past decade, is that it is becoming increasingly "adult oriented." We notice a gradual but general trend of increasing attention on the adults in family relations and a concomittant decrease of interest in the child. Several indications point to this assessment: 1) the topic of sex roles is dominated by a concern with adult relationships and with self fulfillment (of women, at least) typically outside the context of parental roles. Increased interest in dual-career marriages, occupational equality between the sexes, and marital equality also reflect this "adult" orientation. 2) The, admittedly small but increasing, literature on alternate life styles is overwhelmingly adult oriented in that it rarely considers the place of children. 3) The limitation of family size (family planning, contraception,

etc.) was the second most frequent topic in our content analysis (9.1% of the articles). 4) Even when the focus is on parent-child interaction, it is increasingly on the effect of the child, on the parent, or on the marriage. 5) Our content analysis shows that only 15% of the articles dealt directly with marital interaction. But this is a misleading indicator of adult orientation since marital interaction was often a major concern within a number of the other topics: sex roles, family structure and process, family planning, mate selection, sexual behavior, etc.

We would venture to predict that this trend in the family literature will continue, because it reflects a more general social trend which increasingly views the family as a context for self expression and affective development, rather than as a context for child-rearing.

References

BUDD, R. W., R. K. THORP, and L. DONOHEW
1967 Content Analysis of Communications, New York: Macmillan.

HODGSON, JAMES W. and ROBERT A. LEWIS
1977 "Pilgrim's Progress III: A trend analysis of family theory and methodology." Paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations meetings.

KLEIN, JOHN F., G. P. CALVERT, T. N. GARLAND, and M. M. POLOMA
1969 "Pilgrim's Progress I: Recent developments in family theory," Journal of Marriage and the Family 31:677-687.

RUANO, B. J., J. D. BRUCE and M. M. MCDERMONTT
1969 "Pilgrim's Progress II: Recent trends and prospects in family research." Journal of Marriage and the Family 31:688-698.

APPENDIX A

CODING PROCEDURES AND CATEGORY DEFINITIONS FOR TOPICS

A topic was coded if the major thrust of the article centered on the topic category. This was based primarily on the nature of the dependent variable. The following list provides brief descriptions of each topic.

Mate Selection: the process of choosing a marriage partner. Dating behavior would not be coded as mate selection unless the article dealt with a relationship between dating behavior and choosing a marriage partner.

Marital Interaction: served as a general category of interaction between married partners for topics not coded in more specific categories dealing with husband-wife interaction. For example, a study of the result of social networks on marital interaction would be coded in this category, while a study of the relative power of spouses due to membership in social networks would not.

Conjugal Power: power relations between spouses. Studies of the relative influence, power, decision-making power, authority, etc. would be coded in this category.

Conjugal Adjustment/Satisfaction: satisfaction or adjustment in a marital relation. Only articles using equivalent concepts to adjustment, satisfaction, or affect were coded under this topic.

Conjugal Stress/Conflict: concepts such as stress and friction were coded here. Articles such as those dealing with the relationship between wife's employment, for example, and degree of conflict within a marriage fit this category.

Marital Dissolution: diss lving of marriages through divorce, separation, death, or abandonment. Antecedents to divorce or the effect of loss of partner through death were coded under this category. Variables producing conflict were not coded here.

Early Marriages/Young Families: nuclear or extended families occuring before the age of 20 in U.S. Articles, such as those dealing with the effect of living within an extended kin network or e rly marriages or young families were coded under this category.

Older Marriages/Families: nuclear or extended families with participants past middle age (55) or with all children out of the household would fit this category. An example would be the effect of empty nest syndrome on the mother's self concept.

Parent-Child Interaction: residual category of non-specific interaction between parents and children. The perception of parents' characteristics, personality, etc. would be coded under this category. Child's effect on parents' personality would be coded under effect of child on parent.

Effect of Parent on Child: articles dealing with the effect of any parental behavior or attribute on the child would be coded in this category. An example would be the effect of mother's employment on child's intellectual development.

Effect of Child on Parent: any article dealing with the parent as the dependent variable in parent-child interaction.

Birth Order: effect of ordinal position of birth. For example, a comparison of first borns versus later borns on any characteristic.

Family Structure: the size, composition, and role configuration in the family, i.e. nuclear, extended. A classical example of this category would be the effect of the economic system on family structure.

Family Processes: interaction between family members. An article on interaction with consanguine versus affinal family after divorce would be coded under this category. Demographic changes among families would not fit this category.

Family Size/Planning: numbers of children, fertility, planning for number of children in the family. Example: the effect of an extended family system on fertility.

Sex Roles: activities, roles, statuses, etc. influenced by one's gender. Sex role images portrayed in children's books would be coded here.

Sexual Behavior: sexual acts occuring before, after, inside or outside marital bonds. Determinants of the decision to engage in premarital or extra-marital sexual activity would be coded under this category.

Cohabitation: non-family members of opposite sex living in the same household prior to marriage.

Illegitimacy/Premarital Pregnancy: bearing a child outside marriage. Example: social class as a predictor of premarital pregnancy would be coded under this category.

Mixed Marriages: marriage of persons from dissimilar social groups (race, religion, ethnic background).

Minority Family Patterns: family patterns of Blacks, Mexican-Americans, American Indians, and other ethnic minorities.

Alternative Family Forms: any alternative to the nuclear or predominate family pattern, e.g. communes, triads, singles.

Cross-Cultural: this category was used primarily as a cross-reference topic. An article comparing socialization patterns in Japan versus those in Germany would fit.

Theory Construction: development of theoretical perspectives.

Methodology: articles dealing primarily with measurement, sampling, or some other methodological issue.

Review of Literature: "State of the art" articles on a particular family topic.

Critiques: assessment of a professional's work. An article written primarily to show how another author had misinterpreted data or failed to measure a variable adequately would fit this category.

Other: a residual category. Anything that did not fit into one of the above categories.

CODING CATEGORIES FOR DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The methodology coded for each article was determined by the "goodness of fit" between the definitions of each of the following categories and the means of obtaining data described in each article. If a researcher employed more than one method, a decision was made in regard to the most prominent method used.

Survey: in general, survey techniques refer to data gathering procedures which sample respondents from a larger population in order to make references about that population.

Survey/Questionnaire: this category was coded if the researcher gathered data by having respondents indicate answers on a printed research instrument. These are almost always self administered.

Survey/Interview: data gathered by means of face-to-face questioning of respondents.

Survey/Unspecified: this category was utilized if the researcher used a survey technique but failed to specify by which means the survey was conducted.

Interview/Non-Survey: this category was utilized when interviews were the primary means of collecting data but no sampling procedure was employed. Typically, studies using this method reported intensive interviews on a very small number of respondents.

Observation: the direct observation of behavior; either participant or non participant; conspicuous or unobtrusive strategies.

Experiment: the experimental method consists of exposing subjects to a specially designed situation and systematically recording their reactions. Usually this occurs in a laboratory setting, but occassionally "field experiments" were reported.

Content Analysis: the systematic analysis of any communication content (written, verbal, or visual) for the purpose of making references about the message, the audience, or the source (see Budd et al., 1967, for a good discussion of this method). The present study utilized this method.

Archival: archival data is utilized when a researcher employs data from some data bank that is available to any professional. Examples include census bureau data and National Opinion Research Center data.

Table 1. Topic of Article by Year (in percent)

Topic	Year of Publication '68	'69	'70	'71	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	Total	N
Mate Selection	2.2	5.5	4.8	1.8	4.3	1.1	2.2	6.2	5.3	2.6	3.8	33
Marital Interaction*	1.1	3.7	1.2	1.8	5.4	3.3	3.2	2.6	6.6	3.9	3.3	29
Conjugal Power	--	5.5	4.8	1.8	2.2	3.3	1.1	.9	3.9	1.3	2.5	22
Conjugal Adjustment/Satisfaction	10.1	1.8	9.6	7.1	4.3	2.2	3.2	6.1	3.9	9.2	5.6	49
Conjugal Stress/Conflict	--	.9	2.4	3.6	--	--	1.1	1.8	1.3	3.9	1.4	12
Marital Dissolution	1.1	2.8	1.2	7.1	3.2	--	6.5	2.6	1.3	3.9	2.8	25
Early Marriages/Young Families	3.4	.9	1.2	--	1.1	2.2	--	--	--	--	.9	8
Older Marriages/Families	2.2	--	1.2	--	--	1.1	--	2.6	3.9	0	1.1	10
Parent-Child Interaction*	6.7	1.8	3.6	--	6.5	5.5	5.4	3.5	2.6	1.3	3.9	34
Effect of Parent on Child	7.9	5.5	6.0	16.1	4.3	--	4.3	2.6	3.9	3.9	5.0	44
Effect of Child on Parent	--	.9	1.2	--	--	1.1	4.3	.9	--	1.3	1.0	9
Birth Order	1.1	.9	1.2	--	1.1	1.1	1.1	--	1.3	--	.8	7
Family Structure	6.7	3.7	1.2	--	7.5	5.6	4.3	2.6	5.3	3.9	4.2	37
Family Processes	1.1	.9	4.8	10.7	5.4	3.3	6.5	7.9	5.3	1.3	4.6	40
Family Size/Planning	15.7	10.1	7.2	5.4	7.5	6.7	9.7	17.9	11.8	6.6	9.1	79
Sex Roles	9.0	10.1	6.0	30.4	10.8	23.3	9.7	16.7	17.1	21.1	14.7	129
Sexual Behavior	3.4	4.5	11.0	--	3.2	2.2	4.3	3.5	5.2	5.2	4.3	38
Cohabitation	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.2	--	--	2.6	.5	4
Illegitimacy/Premarital Pregnancy	1.1	5.5	3.6	--	1.1	--	--	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.8	16
Mixed Marriages	--	.9	2.4	5.4	--	4.4	1.1	.9	2.6	--	1.6	14
Minority Family Patterns	2.2	1.8	--	--	3.2	1.1	1.1	.9	--	1.3	1.3	11
Alternative Family Forms	1.1	1.8	--	--	3.2	--	--	--	--	2.6	.9	8
Theory Construction	1.1	3.7	4.8	--	1.1	--	--	2.6	2.6	1.3	1.8	16
Methodology	1.1	8.3	--	--	6.5	5.6	7.5	4.4	7.9	--	4.4	39
Review of Literature	--	3.7	6.0	3.6	--	2.2	3.2	--	--	--	1.8	16
Critique	--	.9	1.2	--	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.6	1.3	2.6	1.3	11
Other	21.3	13.8	13.3	5.4	17.2	23.3	17.2	17.5	5.3	18.4	15.8	139
Total Percent	99.6	99.9	99.9	100.2	100.2	99.7	100.3	99.8	99.7	99.6	100.2	
N=	89	109	83	56	93	90	93	114	76	76		879

*Frequencies for these general categories are exclusive of the frequencies reported in their several sub-categories.

Table 2. Year By Method (in percent)[1]

Method of Data Collection	Year of Publication '68	'69	'70	'71	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	Total	N
Survey/Questionnaire	40	26.7	36.4	20	44.9	31.4	32.5	31.6	35.7	32.3	33.6	240
Survey/Interview	18.5	28.9	25.8	22.8	28.2	14.3	16.3	11.5	20	24.6	20.7	148
Interview/Non-Survey	13.8	10	--	--	--	5.7	1.3	--	1.4	3.7	3.6	26
Survey (unspecified)	4.6	2.2	15.1	2.8	11.5	14.2	27.5	13.7	14.3	12.3	12.5	89
Observation	9.2	4.4	7.6	11.4	1.3	1.4	3.8	8.4	1.4	3.1	4.9	35
Experimental	3.1	1.1	1.5	5.7	1.3	2.9	5	6.3	--	--	2.7	19
Content Analysis	3.1	5.6	1.5	11.4	1.3	1.4	2.5	6.3	2.9	1.5	3.5	25
Archival[2]	7.7	21.1	12.1	25.7	11.5	28.6	11.3	23.2	24.3	23.1	18.6	133
Total Percent	100	100	100	99.8	100	99.9	100.2	101	100	100.6		
N=	65	90	66	35	78	70	80	95	70	65	100.1	714

[1]Only empirical articles are included in this table.

[2]Along with public records and statistics, this category included semi-public surveys, such as, NORC and Roper.

Table 3. Topic By Method (in Percent)*

Topic	Method: Survey Questionnaire	Survey Interview	Interview Non-Survey	Survey Unspecified	Observation	Experimental	Content Analysis	Archival	N	%
Mate Selection	46.4	3.6	3.6	10.7	3.6	7.1	10.7	14.3	28	100.0
Marital Interaction	32.0	36.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	0	0	16.0	25	100.0
Conjugal Power	28.6	42.9	4.8	14.3	0	4.8	0	4.8	21	100.2
Conjugal Adjustment/Satisfaction	53.5	16.3	4.7	11.6	0	4.7	0	9.3	43	100.1
Conjugal Stress/Conflict	25.0	33.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	16.7	0	0	12	99.9
Marital Dissolution	0	8.7	8.7	17.4	4.3	0	0	61.0	23	100.1
Early Marriges/Young Families	16.7	33.3	16.7	0	0	0	0	33.3	6	100.0
Older Marriages/Families	33.3	11.1	0	33.3	11.1	0	0	11.1	9	99.9
Parent-Child Interaction	72.3	6.9	0	10.3	0	3.5	3.5	3.5	29	100.0
Effect of Parent on Child	52.6	18.4	5.3	5.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	10.5	38	99.9
Effect of Child on Parent	14.3	42.9	0	14.3	14.3	14.3	0	0	9	100.1
Birth Order	71.4	0	0	14.3	0	0	14.3	0	7	100.0
Family Structure	11.1	41.7	5.6	13.9	2.8	2.8	0	22.2	36	100.1
Family Processes	44.8	31.0	0	3.5	6.9	0	0	14.0	29	100.2
Family Size/Planning	22.2	23.8	4.8	22.2	0	0	0	27.0	63	100.0
Sex Roles	38.4	12.1	3.0	14.1	3.0	0	8.1	21.2	99	99.9
Sexual Behavior	68.6	20.0	0	11.4	0	0	0	0	35	100.0
Cohabitation	50.0	50.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	100.0
Illegitimacy/Premarital Pregnancy	0	26.7	6.7	20.0	0	0	0	46.7	15	100.1
Mixed Marriages	0	0	8.3	8.3	0	0	0	83.3	12	99.9
Minority Family Patterns	10.0	50.0	20.0	10.0	0	0	0	10.0	10	100.0
Alternative Family Forms	25.0	50.0	0	0	0	0	0	25.0	4	100.0
Other	24.8	22.9	1.8	12.8	1.8	4.6	6.4	24.8	109	99.9
N=	229	144	25	85	15	16	21	131	666	
Percent	34.4	21.6	3.8	12.8	2.3	2.4	3.2	19.7	100.2	

*All non-emperical topics have been dropped from this analysis.

Table 4. Topic by Journal (in percent)

Topic	Journal		
	JMF	ASR	AJS
Mate Selection	4 %	1.7%	2.7%
Marital Interaction	3.6	0	2.7
Conjugal Power	2.7	0	2.7
Conjugal Adjustment/Satisfaction	6.3	0	2.7
Conjugal Stress/Conflict	1.5	1.7	0
Marital Dissolution	3.2	1.7	0
Early Marriages/Young Families	.8	3.4	0
Older Marriages/Families	1.2	0	1.4
Parent-Child Interaction	4.4	0	0
Effect of Parent on Child	4	13.8	8.2
Effect of Child on Parent	1.2	0	0
Birth Order	.9	0	0
Family Structure	4.3	5.2	2.7
Family Processes	4.4	8.6	2.7
Family Size/Planning	8.8	8.6	10.8
Sex Roles	10.8	34.5	37.8
Sexual Behavior	5	1.7	0
Deviant Interaction Patterns	4.2	0	5
Minority Family Patterns	1.5	0	0
Alternative Family Forms	.9	1.7	0
Theory Construction	2.1	0	0
Methodology	5.2	0	0
Review of Research	2.0	0	1.4
Critique	1.2	0	2.7
Other	15.7	17.2	14.9
Total Percent	99.9%	99.8%	99.8%
N=	747	58	74

Table 5. Method of Data Collection by Journal (in percent)

Method	Journal		
	JMF	ASR	AJS
Survey/Questionnaire	36.5%	19.2%	16.6%
Survey/Interview	21.7	13.4	16.6
Interview/Non-Survey	3.6	1.9	5
Survey (unspecified)	13.2	13.4	1.6
Observation	4.8	5.7	10
Experimental	2.8	1.9	1.6
Content Analysis	2.9	5.7	6.6
Archival	14.6	38.4	41.6
Total Percent	100.1%	99.6%	99.6%
N=	602	52	60